


Joel N. Gordes
Environmental energy Solutions
30 Brookmoor Road
West Hartford, CT 06107
(860) 561-0566
jgordes@earthlink.net

Energy & Technologies Committee
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Testimony on HB 5596 AAC The Right to Dry

Co-chair Fonfara, Co-Chair Fontana, Committee Members and Diligent Staff, my name is Joel N. Gordes and I am an independent energy consultant with over thirty years in the field of energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy security. I am sorry I cannot personally be with you today. This bill may seem like a very small item in the scheme of things and maybe even symbolic but symbols can be powerful as we all know - sometimes they even overwhelm the substance of the issue they represent; but not in this case.

Some of you who know me know that I am a US Air Force combat veteran. Once I delivered F-4 fighter jets to the Shah of Iran's Air Force. That was a poor policy then and it is a poor policy today even as this nation is poised to sell the Saudis precision bombs. In my own case let's just say I have been trying to atone ever since for that indiscretion of my youth. Today I realize that our need and dependence on oil was a driver for these ill-advised actions. It still is.

Banning a clothesline is maybe a very small thing but from my perspective today, it is akin to banning the flying of an American flag which is also an action taken by some gated communities. To me, both in their own way, are symbols of our liberty. Just think about it, this next Independence Day we will be 60% dependent on a lot of places who share none of our democratic values (see below). In a very small way, by banning clotheslines we give despots aid and comfort by doing so as we will increase our use of their oil by some small degree. Some of that may go for weaponry to be used against our own troops (remember the troops??) And this is a country that has forgotten the meaning of shared sacrifice. Now you have a chance to do One Thing (as the Governor's campaign might say) by voting "yes" on this bill." Please do so.

 Energy Information Administration <small>Official Energy Statistics from the U.S. Government</small>			Glossary
Home > Basic Petroleum Statistics > Top Suppliers of U.S. Crude Oil Imports			
Top Suppliers of U.S. Crude Oil 2004			
<small>(Thousand barrels/day)</small>			
Rank	Country of Origin	Thousand Barrels/day	
1	Canada	1,616	
2	Mexico	1,598	
3	Saudi Arabia	1,495	
4	Venezuela	1,297	
5	Nigeria	1,078	
6	Iraq	655	
7	Angola	366	
8	Kuwait	241	
9	United Kingdom	238	
10	Ecuador	232	
11	Algeria	215	
12	Russia	158	
13	Norway	143	
14	Colombia	142	
15	Gabon	142	
16	Argentina	59	
17	Brazil	51	
18	Trinidad and Tobago	49	
19	Indonesia	34	